

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 0566

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE PFOR XG

SUBJECT: CSCE POLICY: INFORMATION -- STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS
ON RADIO BROADCASTING

REF: GENEVA 6298

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS TOPIC HAVE GONE FORWARD LARGELY ON BASIS OF MORE REALISTIC TEXT DEVELOPED AMONG ALLIES LAST OCTOBER. NATO ALLIES, HOWEVER, SEEM TO BE ON POINT OF ABANDONING PARA IN THAT TEXT WHICH INDIRECTLY BUT CLEARLY RELATES TO CESSATION OF RADIO JAMMING, AND WE HAVE NOT ATTEMPTED TO ARREST THEIR GRADUAL RETREAT ON THIS ISSUE. CURRENTLY, ALLIES APPARENTLY ARE RESIGNED TO MINIMAL RESULTS IN THIS AREA, ENTAILING ESSENTIALLY A SHORT, POSITIVE STATEMENT ON ACCESS TO AUDIO-VISUAL INFORMATION AND LITTLE MORE. THIS MESSAGE DESCRIBES STATE OF PLAY AND COURSE USDEL INTENDS TO FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

2. NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS ISSUE ARE GOING FORWARD IN A LARGE, INFORMAL AND OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP. THE BRITISH (AS SPOKESMAND FOR THE NINE ON INFORMATION TOPICS) HAVE TENDED TO TAKE THE LEAD ALSO FOR THE NATO GROUP. MAIN POINTS OF DEPARTURE OF DISCUSSION HAS BEEN
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THE MORE REALISTIC TEXT WORKED OUT AMONG NATO ALLIES

LAST OCTOBER (FULL TEXT REFTEL).

3. THAT PAPER INCLUDED AN INDIRECT AND MUTED CALL FOR AN END TO RADIO JAMMING ("THEY EXPRESS THEIR CONVICTION THAT THE PROGRESS IN THE REALM OF RADIO BROADCASTING REALIZED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF WORK IN GENEVA WILL CONTINUE FURTHER".) THE SOVIETS ADAMANTLY REFUSE TO CONSIDER THIS LANGUAGE UNLESS IT WERE COUPLED WITH A STATEMENT COMMITTING PARTICIPATING STATES TO CONTROL THE CONTENT OF INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTS EMANATING FROM THEIR TERRITORY. SUCH A COMMITMENT IN TURN WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO A NUMBER OF WESTERN COUNTRIES. IN FACE OF SOVIET INTRANSIGENCE OUR ALLIES ARE ON THE POINT OF ABANDONING ANY EFFORT TO DEAL WITH THE JAMMING ISSUE IN THIS MANNER. WE BELIEVE THE SOVIETS ARE QUITE AWARE OF THIS TREND ON THE WESTERN SIDE. FOR OUR PART, WE HAVE MADE NO EFFORT TO ARREST IT. TO DO SO WOULD HAVE COMMITTED US, IN EFFECT, TO TAKE THE LEAD ON THIS ISSUE FOR THE WESTERN SIDE AND BRING US IMMEDIATELY INTO SHARP CONFRONTATION WITH THE SOVIET DELEGATION.

4. IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WESTERN EFFORTS WILL PROBABLY SHIFT FROM JAMMING LANGUAGE MENTIONED ABOVE TO ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN A POSITIVELY WORDED FORMULA ON ACCESS TO AUDIO-VISUAL INFORMATION. THIS FORMULA COULD BE INTERPRETED AS AN OBLIQUE DISAPPROVAL OF RADIO JAMMING. THE LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN OCTOBER NATO AGREED TEXT READ AS FOLLOWS: "TO FACILITATE THE DISSEMINATION OF FILMED AND BROADCAST INFORMATION AND ACCESS TO IT FOR ALL." THE SOVIETS HAVE AN UNCONQUERABLE AVERSION TO "ACCESS FOR ALL", AND NATO DELEGATIONS HAVE DEVELOPED THE FOLLOWING AS A SUBSTITUTE: "THE PARTICIPATING STATES, TO FACILITATE THE DISSEMINATION OF FILMED AND BROADCAST INFORMATION, INCLUDING THE PROMOTION OF ACCESS TO CINEMATOGRAPHIC AND AUDIO-VISUAL INFORMATION FROM THE OTHER PARTICIPATING STATES". HOWEVER, THE SOVIETS HAVE ALSO OPPOSED THIS FORMULA, AND THE NATO DELEGATIONS ARE PRESENTLY CONSIDERING WHAT THEIR NEXT STEPS SHOULD BE.

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5. ANOTHER OUTSTANDING ISSUE IS WHETHER THE TEXT SHOULD COMMIT PARTICIPANTS TO FACILITATE THE PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE TIME AND WAVELENGTHS OF BROADCASTS FROM THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS. LANGUAGE ON THIS POINT WAS ALSO INCLUDED IN NATO TEXT DEVELOPED LAST OCTOBER. THE SOVIETS HAVE INDICATED ADAMANT OPPOSITION TO THIS PROVISION AS WELL, BUT NUMBER OF ALLIES WISH TO KEEP

PASSING IT, FOR THE TIME BEING AT ANY RATE.

6. THUS, THE NATO ALLIES SEEM READY TO FALL BACK RAPIDLY FROM THE TEXT DEVELOPED LAST OCTOBER (REFTEL) AND MAY SOON BE DEFENDING WHAT AMOUNTS TO THE MINIMAL POSITION THAT WE FIRST PUT FORWARD ON THIS TOPIC IN CONNECTION WITH OUR EFFORTS TO BRING ALLIES TO MORE REALISTIC POSITIONS ON KEY BASKET III ISSUES (STATE 157020 OF JULY 29.

7. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE PLAN, UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, TO GIVE ACTIVE BUT LOW KEY SUPPORT TO ALLIED EFFORTS TO DEFENT THIS MINIMALIST POSITION ENTAILING ESSENTIALLY A SHORT BUT POSITIVELY WORDED STATEMENT ON ACCESS, PLUS THE PROPOSAL ON PUBLICATION OF TIME AND WAVELENGTHS OF PROGRAMS, RECOGNIZING THAT THE SECOND ELEMENT IS BASICALLY A THROWAWAY ITEM WHICH CAN PERHAPS BE TRADED IN AT SOME POINT FOR SATISFACTION ON THE ACCESS SENTENCE.DALE

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